

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Next. 124. Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I move the adoption of LR 124. This is a resolution on energy provided for the appointment of a subcommittee on energy composed of three members of the Executive Board. It declares that this subcommittee would coordinate energy studies during the interim as well as institute some studies of their own. This is in compliance with federal regulations and in cooperation with Executive branch. I renew my motion to approve the Legislative Resolution 124.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. 125. Senator Boughn.

SENATOR BOUGHN: Mr. President and members of the body, this deals with the proposed abandonment by the Chicago Northwestern Transportation Line of 172 miles of rail line between Norfolk, Nebraska and Winner, South Dakota. This affects 14 towns in the State of Nebraska and 9 towns in South Dakota. The 114 miles of abandonment is the largest abandonment ever proposed in the State of Nebraska. Once we lose these branch lines, we will never get them back. We are aware that the President has talked about the energy crisis and the trains can become very vital and essential in the time of an emergency. We are known as the Agriculture Midwest Bread Basket of the Nation. Nebraska needs a healthy railroad system because we are heavy exporters of farm produce. The Nebraska Public Service Commission is contacting all the shippers and users of this branch line requesting that they prepare testimony in opposition of the railroad abandonment. Authorities in the State of South Dakota are doing the same thing, and as I state, this hearing will be held July 12, 1977 at Norfolk, Nebraska. The Nebraska Public Service Commission has proposed this abandonment and will aid shippers and users in preparing and presenting testimony at this hearing to be held in Norfolk, Nebraska. I respectfully request the passage of Legislative Resolution 125.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of my good friend, Senator Boughn, from Norfolk. I believe that this railroad line should not be abandoned. It is 172 miles from Norfolk to Winner, South Dakota. It serves about six towns in my District and 14 towns in Northeast Nebraska. We all know that it takes less fuel to operate a train than it does for trucks to haul freight. Therefore, I move for the adoption of this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to rise in support of Senator Boughn's resolution. I think I would do that ordinarily but we have got graphic, Senator Maresh and I have graphic examples of the economic ramifications that take place in the abandonment of rail